

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the allowance of claim 19 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-18.

Replacement Figures 1 and 2

In the Office Action mailed on October 27, 2004, the drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR § 1.121(d) because Figs. 1-3 of the drawings were not properly labeled as -- Prior Art --. Applicants respectfully present replacement Figs. 1-3 properly labeled as -- Prior Art --, which comply with § 1.121(d). Accordingly, Applicants request approval of the drawing changes and withdrawal of the objection.

Summary of the Response

By the foregoing amendment, claim 1 has been canceled and claims 2, 5, 9, and 16 have been amended. New claims 20 and 21 have been added. Thus, claims 2-21 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed on October 27, 2004, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,446,177 to Tanaka, et al. Claim 1 has been canceled and this rejection is therefore moot.

Claims 2-21 Recite Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action mailed October 27, 2004, indicates that claims 2-18 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form

including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2, 5, 9 and 16 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims, and are therefore in condition for allowance. Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 10-15 and 18 each depend from one of allowable claims 2, 5, 9, and 16, and are therefore likewise in condition for allowance. Claim 19 is allowed. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-19 are in condition for allowance.

New Claims 20 and 21 Recite Patentable Subject Matter

Support for new claims 20 and 21 may be found at pages 5, 6, 11, 15, and 23 of the specification. Applicants respectfully submit that Tanaka, et al. fails to teach or suggest at least the feature of “a data destruction unit that destructs data stored in an area in the memory block by reading the data and stops writing back [restoring] the data to the area,” as recited in new claims 20 and 21.

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 20 and 21 are allowable over the cited prior art.

Conclusion

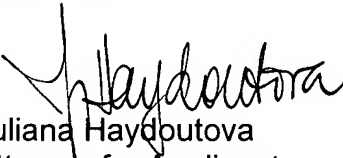
For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentably distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 108391-00035.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Figs. 1-3
Petition for Extension of Time (one month)

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IN THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 1-3 have been amended to add the label "Prior Art". Replacement sheets are attached.